

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 CIEP-01 /068 W

----- 084050

P 180945Z JAN 75 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1504

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG US IS

SUBJECT: EXPECTATIONS RISE OF NEW WITHDRAWAL OFFER

1. THERE IS GROWING SENSE OF EXPENTANCY HERE FOLLOWING KISSINGER-ALLON TALKS. IN GENERAL, POLITICALLY SENSITIVE EGYPTIANS HOPE THAT SADAT'S FAITH IN STEP BY STEP APPROACH WILL BE VINDICATED BY MOVEMENT SOON IN SINAI. CONSEQUENTLY, DEPARTURE OF AMB EILTS TO WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATION JAN 12 FUELLED EXPECTATIONS THAT NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE IMMINENT. IN SOME QUARTERS, THESE EXPECTATIONS HAVE PREDICTABLY FED ON THEMSELVES TO EXTENT THAT MANY SOPHISTICATED EGYPTIANS BELOW HIGHEST GOE LEVELS NOW SAY THEY ARE CERTAIN THAT THE AMBASSADOR WILL BRING BACK ACCEPTABLE ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL FROM WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK.

2. THIS OPTIMISM IS REFLECTED IN PRESS JAN 18. AKHBAR HAS BANNER HEADLINE: "NEW WITHDRAWAL OFFER." LEAD STORY, SET NEXT TO PICTURE OF AMB EILTS, STATES PRESIDENT FORD HAS TOLD ALLON THAT USG IS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS ABOUT VERY SERIOUS SITUATION IN ME, AND QUOTES INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS SAYING ABM EILTS

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WILL SSON RETURN TO CAIRO WITH NEW SINAI WITHDRAWAL OFFER.

GUMHURIYYA ALSO HAS FRONT PAGE ARTICLE HEADLINED: "AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR BRINGS NEW OFFER TO CAIRO."

3. MFA IS ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF POTENTIAL DANGER OF THIS KIND OF
REPORTING, WHICH ENGENDERS HOPES OF RAPID DIPLOMATIC MOVEMENT.
THUS, EARLY IN WEEK WHEN CAIRO PRESS PUBLISHED INFORMATION THAT
AMB HAD RETURNED TO WASHINGTON, WE UNDERSTAND FROM PRESS SOURCES
THAT FAHMY HIMSELF RAISED CANE WITH EDITORS ALL THREE MAJOR
NEWSPAPERS.

4. FAHMY, HOWEVER, IS REALLY POWERLESS TO STEM TIDE OF RISING
EXPECTATIONS. EGYPTIANS AWAIT AMBASSADOR'S RETURN WITH
EAGERNESS AND ASSUME HIS ARRIVAL WILL MARK BEGINNING OF SERIOUS
NEGOTIATIONS ON PUTATIVE NEW OFFER OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.
MAESTONE

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